

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 16152

USEEC

E. O. LL652: GDS
TAGS: ETRD, EAGR, ECON
SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL COFFEE AGREEMENT

REF: STATE 223845

1. EMBOFF CONTACTED HERR ROERIG, CHIEF OF THE COFFEE DIVISION - MINISTRY OF ECONOMICS, ON SEPTEMBER 5 TO DISCUSS US VIEWS ON PRESENT COFFEE SITUATION AS OUT-LINED REFTEL. ROERIG SAID THAT THE FRG'S VIEW WAS PRACTICALLY IDENTICAL TO THAT OF THE US. THE FRG OPPOSES INTRODUCTION OF QUOTAS OR EXPORT CONTROLS OF ANY KIND, INCLUDING MEASURES TO PROTECT "PRICE BRACKETS" (PREIS-SPANNEN). THE FRG IS READY TO REVIEW AND DISCUSS REALISTIC CHANGES IN TRIGGER PRICES DURING THE LONDON NEGOTIATIONS, BUT ALSO SHARES BELIEF THAT OBJECTIVE ECONOMIC ANALYSIS IS NECESSARY BEFORE ANY ACTIONS ARE TAKEN.

2. ROERIG EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR TRANSMITTAL OF US VIEWS, ESPECIALLY SINCE HE HAD HAD THE FEELING DURING THE LAST MEETING IN LONDON THAT THE US RESPONSE TO PRODUCER DEMANDS WAS NOT AS CLEAR AS IT HAD BEEN IN
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THE PAST, POSSIBLY SIGNALING A CHANGE IN THE US POSITION. HE SAID HE NOW FELT MORE CONFIDENT THAT MAJOR CONSUMERS WERE ONCE AGAIN SEEING THE SITUATION IN THE SAME WAY.
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